

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-05

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O R 050932Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0509

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2080

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJ: STATUS OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION

REF: BANGKOK 1996

SUMMARY:

FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 5, DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER SENI PRAMOT
AND THAI NATION PARTY LEADER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN MET.

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THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD REACHED "AN UNDERSTANDING".

THE HOUSE AND SENATE WILL MEET FEBRUARY 6 TO ELECT THEIR PRESIDING OFFICERS. THE SOCIALIST, SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT, AND NEW FORCE PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO COORDINATE POLICY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD A BRIEF CEREMONIAL OPENING SESSION FEBRUARY 5. IN THE ABSENCE OF KING PHUMPHON ADUNYADET, WHO IS ILL, THE PRINCESS MOTHER PRESIDED. NO BUSINESS TRANSPIRED.

2. FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER SENI PRAMOT AND THAI NATION PARTY LEADER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN MET PRIVATELY, AND LATER ANNOUNCED TO NEWSMEN THAT THEY HAD REACHED "AN UNDERSTANDING". THEY REFUSED TO GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS, BUT SENI SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO MEET WITH HIS PARTY LATER FEBRUARY 5. THAI NATION THUS MAY BE PUTTING ITS FOOT AT THE LAST MINUTE IN THE GOVERNMENT DOOR.

3. BOTH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE WILL MEET AGAIN FEBRUARY 6 TO ELECT THEIR PRESIDING OFFICERS. THE THREE ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES FOR HOUSE SPEAKER ARE COL. SOMKHIT SISANGKHOM (SOCIALIST), SOMBUN SIRITHON (DEMOCRAT) AND PRASOET SUTBANTHAT (SOCIAL JUSTICE) (SEE BANGKOK 1927). CURRENT SPECULATION IS THAT THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT WILL BE COMPLETED FEBRUARY 10 OR 11.

4. THE SOCIALIST, SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT, AND NEW FORCE PARTIES HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO FORM A COMMITTEE FOR COORDINATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. COMMENTING ON THIS REPORT, SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY LEADER SAWET PAIMPONGSAN TOLD REPORTERS AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT HE IS NOT AFRAID OF A "SOCIALIST BLOC". SAWET'S EQUENIMITY IS WELL FOUNDED SINCE THE THREE PARTIES TOGETHER HAVE ONLY 37 SEATS IN THE 269 MEMBER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. KINTNER

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